



What is roseola?

Roseola is a viral infection causing rash in infants and children. Children usually develop roseola between 6 months and 24 months of age.

Who is at risk for roseola?

People of all ages can get roseola, but it occurs primarily in infants and children ages 6 to 24 months.

What are the symptoms of roseola?

The signs and symptoms of roseola include a very high fever (above 103° F) lasting three to seven days. The fever may cause seizure activity. Often, the child is not very ill when the fever is present. Roseola also causes a red, raised rash lasting from hours to several days that becomes apparent the day the fever breaks (usually around the fourth day).

How soon do symptoms appear?

Usually about nine to 10 days from the date of infection.

How is roseola spread?

Roseola is spread from person to person by close contact. The virus can live in the nose or throat secretions of healthy people who have had the disease in the past. The most likely source of transmission to children is from healthy adults. Saliva from three-fourths of adults without symptoms contains infectious virus.

When and for how long is a person able to spread the disease?

It is unknown the exact length that a person can spread this disease.

How is a person diagnosed?

A health-care provider will diagnose roseola.

What is the treatment?

A health-care provider may recommend supportive treatment. Immunocompromised people who are infected with roseola may need additional treatment.

Does past infection make a person immune?

Usually someone who has had roseola in the past is immune.

Should children or others be excluded from day care, school, work or other activities if they have roseola?

No. Children do not need to be excluded from activities.

What can be done to prevent the spread of roseola disease?

The only action necessary to prevent the spread of roseola is to practice proper hand washing regularly.

Additional Information:

Additional information is available at www.ndhealth.gov/disease or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

Resource: American Academy of Pediatrics. [Human Herpesvirus 6 (Including Roseola)]. In: Pickering LK, ed. *Red Book: 2003 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 26th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003: 357-359.

